

NCNA HEADS AND TALES

The Official Publication of the
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

Mission Statement

To Promote and To Serve Northern California Numismatics

One-Hundred-Fourteenth (114th) Issue

September 2015
Volume XXXIV, Number 3

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"I Have Found That If You Love Life, Life Will Love You Back."
----Arthur Rubinstein

2015—2016 NCNA EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Fred G. van den Haak-----	President
Jon-Maria Marish-----	First Vice-President
Lloyd G. Chan-----	Second Vice-President
Donald L. Hill-----	Secretary
Michael S. Turrini-----	Treasurer

DEADLINE FOR THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTEEN (115TH) ISSUE-----December 1st

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As I wrote in my previous message, we have had major personal happenings in our family and since that writing, and not mentioned because it most unexpectedly happened post writing, we have concurrently moved into a new home. So post wedding and a 7 day Alaska cruise, we continue to be very busy unpacking and organizing our new downsized home. Our family has expanded with a new son in law and we are blessed to have him. Additionally, our youngest daughter is formally engaged, and is busy planning her wedding for mid 2016. As parents, this is the culmination of years of nurturing and guidance for our children and it brings us much joy to see them launch their own lives.

I fully understand that these details in our personal lives have nothing directly to do with numismatics, but as collectors we all have families and family obligations in our daily lives. These quite obviously take precedence over hobby interests, but the sum of all, enrich our lives and is part of our overall learning experience. In numismatics we learn about history, economics, inflation, coin quality and art among others, all enriching our hobby enjoyment. Due to personal commitments, I have only been able to attend the Fremont and Fairfield Coin Shows since my last writing. Now that things are getting settled, I am hopeful of attending more coin shows in the near future.

One nominee was received for the **2015** "Ron Miller Award", and the N.C.N.A. Board will discuss this nominee at our next meeting and vote on the proposal. Additionally, I would like to again remind members that the N.C.N.A. Board of Directors has established the "Gordon Russell Donnell Award". This award will consist of a bronze medal with an image of Gordon on the obverse and a blank reverse, suitable for engraving the award recipient name. These medals are now available for distribution based on request by member Coin Clubs. This award is somewhat unique for the N.C.N.A., as it will be offered to N.C.N.A. member Coin Clubs (Max. 2 per year), to recognize "their" Club members who hopefully share the enthusiasm, ideals and numismatic spirit as exemplified by the late Gordon R. Donnell. This may be a very attractive way to recognize Coin Club members who have made significant contributions to the benefit of member Clubs or to our hobby in general.

Included with this and all issues of "Heads and Tails", is the updated N.C.N.A. Coin Show listing. This is provided as a service to our members. If your Coin Club has a Coin Show, please contact me as soon as possible to be included in our listing. Local Coin Clubs, along with State and national numismatic organizations often depend on income from their Annual Coin Shows for a majority of their operating budgets. Additionally, youth programs, coin hobby promotion events, journals and Club bulletins and educational programs to support our coin collecting hobby are often all dependant on funds generated by Coin Show activities.

Please Note: Commercial Shows are now allowed on our Show List, provided that the show promoter is a N.C.N.A. member. As such, the member is allowed to list one Show per year. Additional shows may be listed but will require a \$15 payment per Show listed. Your N.C.N.A. Board is hopeful of additional innovative initiatives to improve the services we provide our hobby. I can be contacted via e mail: fredvdh@gmail.com, or by writing to P.O. Box 60484, Palo Alto, Ca. 94306-0484. Phone number: 650-380-4181

Fred G. van den Haak
August 2015

MINTMASTER'S QUILL: An Editor's Prerogative

My Friends:

This month marks the thirty-fifth anniversary since the passing of my first, and still to this today foremost, hobby mentor, **William Frealin 'Bill' Cummings** (1902—1980).

'Bill' was not a member of the American Numismatic Association (ANA), or at least to my knowledge, and throughout his love for numismatics and philately; he did it from his homes in Vallejo, California, with his last home on Kentucky Street. 'Bill' was a Charter Member of the both the Vallejo Numismatic Society and the Vallejo Stamp Club, and he had equal *passion* to both, and *passion* is the best word to describe his hobby commitment and enjoyment.

Once, he told me, in our regular gatherings at his home, over the dining room table with his pet parakeet, who he had taught to speak profane words, that in his younger days he would stay up all night going through coins or stamps, and this was before eBay or the Internet.

Regretfully, I know 'Bill' only a short five years, and he met my parents, who enjoyed his presence. His death---*having visited him just twenty minutes before*---at the local Kaiser remains in my soul to this day, and his wife's call, Addie, that evening to report his passing still rings.

'Bill' was my first mentor in our 'world of money' hobby, and while he was followed by several since, and those among the most prominent California coin hobbyists, 'Bill' remains the first.

His lessons were short and simple, and these were not lectured or preached. These were a quiet remark or remembrance. These were a pause in the conversation and a reflection. These were not elaborate; yet, these endure to this day.

As mentioned, the primary was *passion*. 'Bill', to his final breaths, had *passion* for both numismatic and philately, and his old-school style office, actually a converted bedroom with a cardboard table as his desk and packed closet, confirmed that.

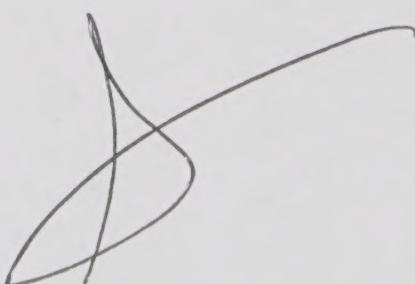
In addition, 'Bill', looking back into his many decades, would remark these simple truths: 'listen to both sides', 'read', 'study', 'give credit due', and 'be loyal to your local club'. Nothing fancy or learned, just 'old-fashion truths' that span decades and generations.

Closing, 'Bill's' greatest lesson was that our hobby, as well as 'stamps', makes friends. No can dispute that gem.

Lastly, 'Bill' encouraged, and predicted that "I would go places in our hobby."

Finally, thirty-five years later, now retired into my twilight years, I cannot forget and I am forever indebted his sage counsel. 'Bill's' presence in my life and my hobbies shall endure for many more years. He left, but he shall never leave me.

"Thanks, Bill, We Still Have Coins To Do!"



GOLD MINER DIGGINGS: NCNA News and Happenings

2015 Seminar

Second Annual
CALIFORNIA NUMISMATIC SEMINAR
Saturday, September 26, 2015
Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum
734 Marin, at Capital, in downtown Vallejo, California
Registration Opens: 9:00 AM
Theme: '*Tales From The Vaults*'
Free Admission and Ample Parking----Door Prizes
Museum Open To All Seminar Attendees
California State Numismatic Association (CSNA) Library Open

Five Presenters:

Paul R. Johnson, Unionville, Ontario, Canada
Executive Secretary for the Royal Canadian Numismatic Association (RCNA)
'Memories and Events From Fifty Years In Numismatics: A Canadian Perspective'

Edgar D. Fulwider, Pacifica, California
Retired Senior Die Setter for the San Francisco Mint ('S-Mint')
'Tales From The S-Mint Vaults In Striking Proof Coins'

Dr. Robert J. Chandler, Lafayette, California
Retired Wells Fargo Bank Historian and Noted Western Scholar and Author
'California Fractional Gold'

Doubleheader:
Clifford L. Mishler, Iola Wisconsin
Retired NUMISMATIC NEWS Editor and Publisher and
David C. Harper, Iola, Wisconsin
Current NUMISMATIC NEWS Editor and Publisher
'A Half Century Of Hobby Insights From The 'Catbird's Seat'

As can be read, this year's Seminar has an outstanding lineup, and each presenter is a recognized authority and has a record of excellent presentations. **Paul** is flying in from Canada, and he has spoken before, twice, at the California State Numismatic Association's (CSNA) Educational Symposiums. **Ed** is well-known around northern California numismatics, and he is coming out of retirement to present his topic. **Robert** has been a presenter before, and he is an avid and active researcher plus an enthused speaker. Lastly, for the first-time ever, **Clifford**, retired Editor and Publisher, and **David**, current Editor and Publisher, for NUMISMATIC NEWS, will joint in

a doubleheader dialogue. The full-day event shall certainly entertain and educate. These five presenters have been confirmed and scheduled. The listing is the order of presentation with the first two, **Paul** and **Robert**, before lunch break.

The final presenters, **Clifford and David**, will engage in a dialogue with each other, reviewing their collective experiences, and welcoming questions from those in audience.

All presenters would enjoy questions from those attending, and all are intended to be present throughout the Seminar.

NCNA President Fred G. van den Haak certainly welcomes all NCNA Members and others to attend. Needless to say, this Seminar is open to all coin hobbyists. An on-site barbecue style luncheon service is being anticipated along with several eateries within walking distance, and generous Door Prizes will end the day. The Moderator will be **Alexander B. 'Xan' Chamberlain**, from Palo Alto, California.

Again, admission is FREE and that includes the Museum. Also, the value of the donated Door Prizes is in excess of \$500.00!

Special Note: This Seminar is NOT a California State Numismatic Association (CSNA) event.

2015 Seminar Patron

To help finance this major undertaking, this year the Association is seeking and soliciting 'Patrons' at these levels:

GOLD MINER	\$100.00	Name Listed In Program Letter Acknowledgement Certificate Name Posted At Seminar Engraved 'Tokens of Esteem'
PROSPECTOR	\$50.00	Name Listed In Program Letter Acknowledgement Certificate Name Posted At Seminar

Mail remittances directly to '*PO Box 4104, Vallejo, California, 94590-0410*'. All contributions would be promptly acknowledged. So far, several have become 'Patrons', and the January 2016 NCNA HEADS AND TALES would have post those additional 'Patrons'.

Benefits for 'Patrons', as listed above, would be presented during the September 26, 2015 Seminar to those attending.

2015 Seminar Patrons

Platinum Benefactors

Alexander B. 'Xan' Chamberlain, of Palo Alto, California

James H. Laird, as James and Lisa Laird, Alamo, California

Silver Benefactors

John P. Russell, Jr., Concord, California

Michael S. Turrini, Vallejo, California

Gold Miner

Dr. Robert J. Chandler, Lafayette, California

Edgar D. Fulwider, Pacifica, California

Donald L. Hill, Vallejo, California

Scott D. 'SI' Griffin, Fairfield, California

Clifford L. Mishler, Iola, Wisconsin

Michael M. Stanley, Concord, California

Kenneth K. Takahashi, San Francisco, California

Fred G. van den Haak, Belmont, California

Prospector

Robert F. Fritsch, Nashua, New Hampshire

Paul R. Johnson, Unionville, Ontario, Canada

Thanks For Their Support!

2016 Seminar

As this issue of NCNA HEADS AND TALES is being prepared and printed, preliminary funding and support for the Third Annual California Numismatic Seminar has been pledged and promised. While 'Patrons' are imperative, significant financial assistance comes from the 'Benefactors'. With renewed support, 2016 Seminar can be prepared.

The tentative working theme is either '*Exploring and Enhancing Your Hobby Experience*' or '*Boldly Into The Hobby's Future*', and the planned date is **Saturday, September 24, 2016**, returning to the Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum

Five potential presenters are being considered, and another outstanding lineup is anticipated. Hopefully, with the January 2015 NCNA HEADS AND TALES the planned participants might be announced and listed.

2015 Miller Medal

The Board of Directors reviewed nominations submitted, and one honoree was selected. The individual has yet to be informed and the presentation arranged. The January 2016 NCNA HEADS AND TALES should have the latest roster of recipients.

Donnell Awards

The Association still continues its '*Donnell Award*', and this honor can be ascertained by contacting and corresponding directly with Your Editor. The '*Donnell Award*' is designated specific by, from, and with Club Members onto their respective members.

Coin Show Schedule

Included with this NCNA HEADS AND TALES is the latest 'Coin Show Schedule', and as can be read the next months have several local coin club shows scheduled. The heading of 'Schedule' provides the specifics for inclusion. *Remember:* For any local coin club to have its Show listed, please contact and correspond directly to **President van den Haak**.

Commercial Shows: Are welcomed to be listed, providing these adhere to the stipulations.

Next Board of Directors Meeting

As this NCNA HEADS AND TALES issue is being prepared and printed, no specific date or site has been decided for a Board of Directors Meeting.

Inquiries can be to **President van den Haak** as listed elsewhere.

"Hey, You Wanna Go To A Coin Club Meeting?"

Those were the words asked of me fifty-five years ago, as my neighbor Al North, shouted across his backyard fence on a foggy day in Daly City, California. If it was alright with my parents he would drive me to the San Francisco Coin Club meeting at the hall of Flowers in Golden Gate Park.

My parents gave me permission to go but be home by 10 .Al mentioned that he had joined this club a couple months before and he thought I would enjoy it, but on the way to the meeting he had to pick up another member that lived a couple of block away. Jake Jacobsen was his name. Al asked if I didn't mind sitting in the back seat because Jake was old and would be more comfortable in the front seat of his car. We picked up Jake and introductions were given and a little time into the drive to the city, Jake reached over the front seat and handed me five coins in 2 x 2's. He told me to look them over and that I could have any of the five for \$25.00. In my hand were five BU, 1937-D 3-legged Buffalo Nickels.

I had \$40.00 with me based on a fifty cents a week allowance. I made a buck if I washed my Father's car, and I made 10 cents a pair of shoes that I shined, and I wanted to see what the coin club had to offer before I made a choice for the nickels.

The meetings room opened at 7 PM and the meeting started at 8 PM sharp. Attendance was heavy 100+ or more in the room with the perimeter lined with coin dealers. I found one dealer selling \$20.00 gold pieces for \$40.00 each and I opted for the gold piece over the three legged nickel. Later on the conversation in the car coming home centered on what I collected. When I showed Jake my want list written on 3 x 5 cards he said he could help me out with some of the Indian Head Cents. We agreed on a date to meet at his house and I spent about \$50.00 on the first visit. Before I could get home he called my mother to see if it was alright to sell me the coins.

Within a month or so Daly City's first coin shop opened. I was in seventh heaven. The House of Money opened its doors and I signed a dollar bill as the first customer. Walt McMann was the shop owner and he said, "Give me a copy of your want list and I will try and find the coins you need". Within a week he had acquired several of the coins on my list but the price was \$2021.00. I was too young to withdraw money at the bank from my savings account and needed parental signature for the withdrawal. My father knew nothing about coins, and only cautioned me, that he hoped I was doing the right thing.

The coins I received was a 1916 Standing Liberty Quarter in fine condition, 1916-D Dime in EF, 1942/41 Dime in EF, along with several Canadian dollars and a \$3.00 Gold Coin, plus twenty other various coins.

Now fifty-five years later my collections are nearly complete. I look back to that conversation over the backyard fence and reminisce about how I got organized in the hobby.

Michael M. 'Steamer' Stanley

COIN SHOW SCHEDULE

These coin Club show listings are provided as a free service to the numismatic community by the Northern California Numismatic Association. Show listings are updated quarterly and are available without cost to member Coin Clubs. If you would like to have a show listed, please send all pertinent show information early to: N.C.N.A., Fred G. van den Haak, P.O. Box 60484, Palo Alto, Ca. 94306-0484. You may also e mail the information to: fredvdh@gmail.com

The joint website for the Fairfield Coin Club, Solano Silver Round Club, Vallejo Numismatic Society and Northern California Numismatic Association is: www.solanocoinclub.com

Aug.28-30, 2015 **SAN JOSE** Santa Clara County Coin, Stamp & Collectibles Show, Santa Clara County Fairgrounds, "Gateway Hall", 344 Tully Road, San Jose. Scott Griffin, P.O. Box 1876, Suisun, CA 94585 PPh: 415-601-8661 E Mail: scott@griffincoin.com
Info: www.griffincoin.com

Sep. 13, 2015 **LIVERMORE**. Livermore Valley Coin Club 4th Annual Fall Coin Show, Elks Lodge, 940 Larkspur, Livermore. Bourse: Steve Kramer, P.O. Box 610, Livermore, Ca. 94551. Phone (925) 422-3794.

Sept. 26, 2015 **VALLEJO**. The 2nd Annual Aug, 28-30, 2015 Northern California Numismatic Seminar, sponsored by The Northern California Numismatic Association. Vallejo Naval and Historical Museum, 73 Marin Street at Capital, in Downtown Vallejo. Four speakers have been scheduled. Registration for this all day event begins at 9AM with presentations beginning at 10AM; the afternoon program begins at 2PM. This is a "FREE" event and there will be door prizes and all interested collectors are welcome to attend. Ample free parking is available. Updates: www.solanocoinclub.com. Questions: EMPERORI@juno.com or 707-246-6327

Oct. 2-3, 2015 **SACRAMENTO** Sacramento Valley Coin Club Annual Fall Coin Show. Four Points by Sheraton, 4900 Duckhorn Drive, Sacramento 95834. Hours 10AM-6PM on Friday 10AM to 6PM and Saturday 10AM-4PM. Bourse: Robert Shanks, 10 Fox Oak Court, Sacramento, CA 95831. Phone: 916-204-5168. Ample Free parking. **Admission \$3, Under 18 FREE**.

Oct. 9-11, 2015 **WALNUT CREEK**. Diablo Numismatic Society. 19th Annual Contra Costa Coin and Collectables Show, Elk's Lodge 1475 Creekside Dr., Walnut Creek. Diablo Numismatic Society, P.O. Box 177, Concord, Ca. 94522. Website: diablocoinclub.org Bourse: James Laird (925) 200-2276. Hours: Friday 1-6PM, Saturday 10AM-6PM and Sunday 10AM-5PM. **ADMISSION \$3**.

Oct. 17-18, 2015 **STOCKTON**. Delta Coin Club 51st Annual Coin Show, Eagles Hall, 1492 Bourbon Street, Stockton. Bourse: Ruben Smith III, P.O. Box 5787, Stockton, CA. 95205. Phone (209) 982-5961, E Mail: rubensmith@hotmail.com.

Oct. 24-5, 2015 **FRESNO**. Fresno Coin Club Annual Coin Show, Las Palmas Masonic Center, 2992 E. Clinton Avenue, Fresno 93702-2320. Bourse Chair: Richard Hunter, Phone: 559-738-8128
ADMISSION \$2.

Nov. 1, 2015 **SAN JOSE**. Peninsula Coin Club 36th Annual Coins and Collectibles Show, Napredak Hall, 770 Montague Expressway, San Jose. Bourse: Fred van den Haak, P.O. Box 60484, Palo Alto, Ca. 94306. Phone: (650) 380-4181 E Mail: fredvdh@gmail.com

Nov. 21-2, 2015 **SAN RAFAEL**. Marin County Coin Show. Four Points Sheraton Hotel, 1010 Northgate Drive, San Rafael. Saturday 10AM-6PM, Sunday 10AM-5PM. Bourse: Scott Griffin, 740 Texas Street #210, Fairfield, CA 94533. Phone: 415-601-8661. Info: www.griffincoin.com Email: scott@griffincoin.com Admission \$5, \$2 off with coupon, good for both days.

Jan. 22-24, 2016 **SAN JOSE**. San Jose Coin Club 48th Annual Coins and Collectibles Show, Doubletree Hotel (Bayshore Ballroom), 2050 Gateway Place, San Jose 95110. Bourse Chair: Ray Johnson, P.O. Box 10416, San Jose, CA 95157-1416. Phone: 408-598-7772, Email: SanJoseCoins@aol.com Website: www.sanjosecoinclub.org **Admission \$4 (\$2 off with any Show advertising!)**

May 1, 2016 **VALLEJO**. Vallejo Numismatic Society 44th Annual Show, Florence Douglas Senior Center, 333 Amador (between Georgia and Florida), Vallejo. Bourse: Edwin Hoffmark, Jr. P O Box 4281, Vallejo, Ca. 94590-0428 Phone: 707-642-8754. E Mail: paper4coin@yahoo.com

July 30-1, 2016 **FREMONT**. Fremont Coin Club Annual Show, Elk's Hall, 38991 Farwell Drive, Fremont, Ca. Information: (510) 792-1511; Bourse: Vince Lacariere, P.O. Box 1401, Fremont, Ca. 94538

Nov. 6, 2016 **SAN JOSE**. Peninsula Coin Club 37th Annual Coins and Collectibles Show, Napredak Hall, 770 Montague Expressway, San Jose. Bourse: Fred van den Haak, P.O. Box 60484, Palo Alto, Ca. 94306. Phone: (650) 380-4181 E Mail: fredvdh@gmail.com